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Pocahontas

West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

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Conference, 1871. Also Mrs. Carl Beard, Mrs. James Marshall,
& Mrs. George Clendenen.

Chapter 6 - Sections 1 & 2.

Wesley Chapel -- Hillsboro Methodist Church.

The following is as near a complete list of the pastors of this Methodist organization as I have been able to get:

Rev. Charles A. Joyce ----------1871
" J. R. Van Horn ----------1877
" W. E. Miller
" Chris Sydenstricker
" A. C. Hamill
" J. H. Dills --------- 1899
" J. W. Whitesell --------- 1890
" Chas. Lynch --------
" J. M. York
" J. Adkins
" Frank Lowance
" W. D. Keye
" --- Echols
" W. C. Early
" Wilfred Lawson
" E. T. Harrison
" L. L. Lowance
" G. Pringer
" W. B. Reynolds
" J. A. Light
" -- - Kessler
" L. S. Shires, who serves this church at the present time.

In 1893, the Methodists bought one acre of land from Miss Nella F. Clark for two hundred dollars, for the new church which they anticipated building. This site is located on the main highway, Route # 219, leading through the town of Hillsboro.

The deed: May 20, 1893 between Nella F. Clark of the first part and Geo. Hill, R. B. C. Kennison, Jno. W. Beard, Wm. H. Callison, Samuel Auldridge, M. H. Overholt, R. W. Hill & E. H. Moore, Trustees of Wesley Chapel M. E. Church South, of the second part, one acre of land in the town of Hillsboro adjoining the lands of Dr. J. A. Larew, for a place of Divine worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

This beautiful modern frame building was started in 1899 and completed and dedicated in 1900. The contractor was Mr. Stewart Knapp. The Rev. J. H. Dills was pastor at the time the work on this church was started but Rev. J. W. Whitesell was on the circuit when the church was completed and dedicated. Rev. Pettyman preached the dedicatory sermon. The Rev. J. D. Martin was Presiding Elder at that time.

The church building on the hill beside the parsonage stood for several years and was used for a recreation room and a sort of a gymnasium but was torn down many years ago.

This Methodist organization at Hillsboro owned the first parsonage in Pocahontas County. In the year of 1871 there were only three parsonages owned by the churches in

one of them. The deed for the lot on which the parsonage now stands was made in 1847. The Deed recorded in Deed Book No. 4, page 3?0: Between Nathaniel Kinnison of one part and George Burner, Nathaniel Kinnison, John Hill, Abram Hill, John H. Ruckman, John Wooddell, James Canless and William Young, Trustees, in trust for uses and purposes hereinafter mentioned, one acre adjoining the lands of James Lewis and Samuel Poage, In Trust that they shall erect or cause to be erected and built thereon a parsonage or preachers house for the use of the ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church. I have been unable to find the exact date that the parsonage was built but it must have been built soon after the deed was made. The parsonage is in the same location today. However, the building has been remodeled and is now a modern building with well taken care of grounds.

There has been a Sunday School in this church ever since anyone can remember hearing about. Mr. Joel Hill was the first Sunday School Superintendent that anyone can remember, but several old people have told me that there was a Sunday School before Mr. Hill was Supt.

The Supt. of the Sunday School at the present time is Mr. George Clendenen, and the enrollment is about one hundred.

When the churches were united, the Missionary and the Aid Societies were reorganized into the Woman's Division of Christian Service. Mrs. Carl Beard is the president. This is a very active organization. It keeps up the parsonage and helps with the upkeep of the church. The organization

does its bit toward the upkeep of Scarrit College in Nashville, Tenn. Last year they sent ten dollars to Catherine Lye and Virginia Payne Neel, Missionaries to Africa and Korea.

Information: Mrs. Geo. Clendenen
Mrs. James Marshall
Mrs. Carl Beard